

CARRANZA'S HEARTY COOPERATION WITH THE U. S. ARMY "GENEROUS STAFF"

(BY H. D. S.)

POSSIBLY it isn't entirely polite to look gift locomotives in the mouth, but really the arrangement about shipping supplies to the American forces in Mexico seems rather inadequate. If those folks over in Washington could only get out their geographies and study up a bit, they would see things differently. The troops to be supplied are now—some of them—as far from El Paso as Washington city is from Raleigh, N. C., New Haven, Conn., or Elmira, N. Y. The country is not an easy one for railroad operation at best. The one single track railroad has been the sport of war for so many years that it is in wretched shape, with nothing like normal operating provisions of any kind, with many temporary tracks and bridge structures, irregular water service, no fuel reserves, poor roadways, inadequate repair equipment, and a generally run down condition.

But worst of all, the rolling stock is reduced to a very few cars that can run at all without shaking to pieces or jumping the rails, and the total equipment of "motive power" so called, available in Juarez, consists of two locomotives, one of which will run fairly well, and a few other alleged locomotives which, say well informed mechanics, are unfit for road hauls and would not be able to travel around a "shoofly" temporary track or over temporary trestle work—in fact these alleged locomotives are said to be at the point of death.

One trouble that locomotives in that particular region always have had is a difficulty that seemed to be a combination of gall stones, bladder infection, peritonitis, hernia, rheumatism, locomotor ataxia, whooping cough, influenza, rickets, anemia, arteriosclerosis, general paralysis, convulsions, hemorrhage, pleurisy, asthma, cirrhosis of the liver, gangrene, senility, general debility, heart disease, and leaky boiler tubes; the troubles were largely attributable to bad water and were always blamed on the fireman. All but two of the locomotives in the Juarez yards are said by physicians to have exaggerated cases of all the ailments above cited, all aggravated by poor mechanical attention, poor nursing and doctoring, during the revolution.

Curiously enough, it is just these particular locomotives that are to be allowed by the Juarez authorities to haul the supply trains that are to take merchandise to Casas Grandes merchants to be sold to any Americans who happen to be in that region, whether in uniform or not. There were only two usable locomotives in the yards and the military authorities took one of them. If it is going to take 12 or 15 carloads of supplies a day to supply the forces, to say nothing of train shipments of horses and mules, that will mean a train a day, and if it takes two days for one locomotive to wheeze from one end of the line to the other, how long will it take that same locomotive to haul a daily loaded train south and a daily empty train north and keep up the gait? Respectfully submitted to the commander-in-chief of the forces of the United States and the general staff, called "the generous staff" by the boys in Mexico.

It was very thoughtful of the Juarez military authorities to find immediate use for one of the only two locomotives that retain their integrity. Since the habit of revolutionary military authorities in Mexico is to run trains without train orders, the healthy locomotive may be found useful to impede the progress of its little invalid brothers so graciously tendered by the authorities to haul goods south at the usual price. By the way, did anybody ever stop to think that the Mexico Northwestern railroad is owned by Americans, Canadians, and Europeans, and not by Mexicans or the Mexican government? If permission had been asked of the real owners instead of by the usurping tenants of the property, perhaps it might have been given somewhat less grudgingly.

The more obstacles the Carranza government throws in the way of the American expedition, the longer the Americans will remain in Mexico.

The manner in which Carranza has treated the request of the American government in this instance is not the attitude of one honestly desiring to co-operate in good faith to accomplish the elimination of the Villista bandits. The Americans are not able to reconcile Carranza's declarations of friendliness in this case with his acts. The provision now made for using

the railroad is inadequate. The Americans will be able to supply their troops in the field, but only through the use of the motor supply train from Columbus which is operated not only at great cost but under great and unnecessary difficulties which might be avoided if the Carranza authorities would do the decent thing and open the railroads to the passage of American trains, manned by American crews, and protected by American guards.

This is the only reasonable and practical way to supply the expedition. Carranza may pettifog and bargain, and annoy the Americans who are going about their duty in a big and effective and friendly fashion; his methods make no friends, and they will not seriously impede the American expedition, but only operate to prolong its stay in Mexico.

Carranza and his friends should not be allowed to forget that the American government, by permitting and protecting the transport of 5000 Carranza troops more than 800 miles through American territory in three states, made it possible to meet Villa at Agua Prieta with a superior force, repel his assault, and break down his organized rebellion. The present refusal of the Carrancistas to allow the use of the railroads for adequately supplying the American forces in the field chasing Villa, is an illustration of mental processes the Americans cannot understand.

Carranza currency is quoted today at 2c on the \$1, which is 1c on the peso, which is 50 Carranza paper pesos for one silver or gold peso. One reason for the depreciation of 98 percent in the Carranza paper is Carranza himself.

Speaking of preparedness and the situation about shipping supplies to the troops through Juarez, we read in the dispatches that "during the battle of Charier, the allies left was reinforced by three divisions brought from a distance in 200 trains in three days time."

There are locomotives and other locos, including loaded motives.

Valley Improvements

Constant increases are noted in the number of high grade dairy cattle in the Rio Grande valley. The earnest work of the chamber of commerce and of the two water users' associations in the direction of improved farm methods has had considerable effect. There is more and more of an intelligent idea of making the farm pay through diversifying its products; one hears less of the old one-crop idea which looked so well on paper and was apt to cash in badly at the bank.

The other day in The Herald there was a striking statement in the advertisement of a local dairy concern. "We are milking," said the advertisement, "420 cows producing an average of 30 pounds of milk per day per cow." Only an experienced dairymen knows the full significance of that statement. It is a fact that, when known, will attract attention all over the United States. In the first place, 420 cows are a good many cows for one dairy concern to be milking daily. In the second place, an average of 30 pounds a day of 11,000 pounds (51-2 tons) a year of milk per cow is a remarkable record. It means very careful selection and breeding of the herd, and extraordinary care of the stock.

In the same advertisement was another statement that would interest every dairymen in the United States. It read: "Did you ever see a cow that made over 20,000 pounds of milk in a year? We will show you four in a row." Now 20,000 pounds is ten tons, and that is a most remarkable milk production, and when it is understood that one El Paso dairy concern possesses four cows, each averaging over 20,000 pounds annual product of milk, some idea may be had of the importance this region is beginning to assume in this division of industry.

Hogs, poultry, and sheep are also being developed in this valley, there is considerable cattle feeding, and there is no reason why there should not be successful horse and mule breeding. The valley is improving all the time, and modern methods are coming into vogue.

Short Snatches From Everywhere.

And the American people should be ready for anything that is demanded of them in Mexico. The mass of the people there are not disposed to believe in the purity of our intentions.—Los Angeles Times.

The Swedish government has warned its citizens to stay off army ships. Men will follow business to the cannon's mouth as willingly as they follow the bubble, reputation.—Hillingham (Ala.) Ledger.

The German fleet that sailed from Kiel canal and the Japanese fleet that sailed out from the Mediterranean are both keeping off the front page. What a stir there would be if they should meet.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Six months' ammunition in 1870 would not be enough for one day's fighting in 1916—a fact that might interest Mr. Bryan in case his "army of a million" should ever be compelled to "spring to arms."—Adrian (Mich.) Telegram.

Well, our recent loving reference to orange marmalade of just exactly the right consistency brought me one jar of it and when this is gone, as it will be about Wednesday, we are going to write another paragraph of passion along similar lines.—Ohio State Journal.

Better late than never. It was announced yesterday morning that president Wilson was to consult an oculist. It would have been better if he had done this years ago and so become able to see things in Mexico as they were. When he gets his eyes open now, he will see what that jara him.—Hartford Courant.

On considering the destruction by German submarines of two of their fine liners, the Hollanders are agreed that the United States should take vigorous action. Their attitude in this respect resembling that of the married men of England, who decline to enlist as long as there is a bachelor in civil life.—New York World.

In the civil war the total losses of life from all causes, including sickness, on the Union side were 250,000. Chances are that almost as many lives were lost in the single battle of Verdun, from the description of the sweeping swaths cut by the opposing gunfire. Supposing war is not done with, what will battle losses be 50 years from now?—Topeka Capital.

Gossip Is Art Of Scattering Odium On People Several Kinds Of Time Tested Odium In Use

BY HOWARD L. RANN.

Gossip is the art of scattering odium upon people who are not present with an alibi. There are several kinds of time-tested odium in common use, any one of which will set large, gaping holes in the best reputation ever designed. When a smooth, docile reputation has been well scattered with heavy odium it becomes of no value to its owner, who is obliged to move into another state and build up a new one.

Gossip is caused by the absence of a safety valve on the human tongue. Nature intended the tongue to reveal all at home and live a quiet, retired life, so that it would not become overheated and explode in the direction of the neighbors. One or two such explosions, aimed at the head of the minister or the cashier of the bank, will cause more trouble and consternation than a half-pulling match in the choir. Nobody should be allowed to join the church until his tongue has been passed upon by a boiler inspector and found equal to the pressure of 5000 pounds.

The gossip is usually a man or woman and sometimes both. There would be much less wholesale gossip

in this country if there were fewer cracker-boxes and more work for the unemployed. Idleness causes the

tongue to wag faster than a pink kimono on a clothes line, which impresses the lesson that all gossip should be allowed to work off their enthusiasm on a rock pile.

Gossip is the only form of conversation which can start neck to neck with the truth and win in a walk. There is nothing that can overtake a choice piece of gossip and retire from circulation except the death of all parties concerned, even unto the fourth generation. Thousands of men are afraid to hire a plain, nearsighted stenographer for fear of having her converted into a dashing, peroxide blonde after the style of the voice of gossip.

If gossip sees a married man walk home from church with somebody else's wife, the foundation is at once laid for two commanding divorce suits, and if a settlement is made out of court the lawyers are charged with blocking the wheels of justice.

The nicest kind of gossip is that which says a kind, generous word about somebody and then rings off. The world is full of would-be gossip in this manner. God bless 'em, and they sweeten every life they touch.—Protected by The Adams Newspaper Service.

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